

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for protecting content within protected data areas on a target optical data medium against unauthorized ~~reading and/or~~ copying with a computer, comprising:

determining whether an optical data medium inserted into a drive of the computer is the target optical data medium or a non-target optical data medium, and

when the inserted optical data medium is the target optical data medium,

~~modifying read requests to the protected data areas so that either no data is read or the read data is modified to be useless, and/or~~

modifying write commands in respect to the data within the protected data areas to a recordable data medium or other storage so that the written data is modified to be useless.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~modifying of read requests and/or~~ of write commands is performed only if no authentication is available.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the determining and modifying steps are performed by routines implemented into a drive control layer within the computer.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 3, wherein the routines replace a dispatch routine and a completion routine, and have the functionality to perform the determining and modifying steps and to call the replaced dispatch and completion routines for their execution based on the original or modified read requests and/or write commands.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 3, wherein the routines are implemented by a driver that is installed by an executable that is automatically started when a target optical data medium is inserted into the drive.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 5, wherein the driver is automatically loaded after each start of the computer, and/or does not comprise an unload routine, and/or changes its name randomly, and/or comprises filetimes that are set randomly, and/or comprises code that is changed randomly, and/or is installed multiple times, but is only one time active, and/or can be installed by installation programs spread all over the computer's system.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 5, wherein the driver comprises a communication interface to allow an exchange of control data and/or authentication data.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein a target optical data medium is distinguished from a non target optical data medium by evaluating a predetermined session of a optical data medium in respect to special modifications, and/or at least one of the tables of contents of the optical data medium in respect to special entries, and/or a predetermined session of the optical data medium in respect to special subcode modifications, and/or predetermined data stored on the optical data medium in respect to a watermark.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein a protected data area is identified on basis of a sector type, and/or a range of sectors, and/or sectors that are subject of specific read sequences.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein a protected data area is defined by at least one predetermined area, and/or data stored on the optical data medium itself.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the modifying of read requests so that the read data is modified to be useless, and/or the modifying of write commands so that the written data is modified to be useless comprises aborting a corresponding IO Request and/or IO Command with an error, and/or completing the corresponding IO Request and/or IO Command, but without processing the actual request and/or command, and/or modifying the respective data so that it is modified to be useless.

Claim 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended). A computer readable storage medium including computer executable instructions, which when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method comprising:

determining whether an optical medium inserted into a drive of the computer is a target optical data medium or a non-target optical data medium, and

when the inserted optical data medium is the target optical data medium,

~~modifying read requests to protected data areas of the target optical data medium so that either no data is read or the read data is modified to be useless, and/or~~

modifying write commands in respect to [[the]] data within [[the]] protected data areas to a recordable data medium or other storage so that the written data is modified to be useless.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An optical data storage medium including protected areas and computer executable instructions, wherein when the optical data storage medium is inserted into a drive of a computer, the computer executable instructions cause the computer to identify the optical data storage medium as a target optical data medium and to perform a method comprising:

~~modifying read requests to protected data areas of the target optical data medium so that either no data is read or the read data is modified to be useless, and/or~~

modifying write commands in respect to [[the]] data within [[the]] protected data areas to a recordable data medium or other storage so that the written data is modified to be useless.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): An optical data storage medium according to claim 14, wherein the computer executable instructions are arranged in a data session of a multi-session CD that also comprises an audio session.

Claim 16 (New): A method according to claim 1, wherein when the inserted optical data medium is the target optical data medium, modifying read requests to the protected data areas so that either no data is read or the read data is modified to be useless.

Claim 17 (New): A computer readable storage medium according to claim 13, wherein when the inserted optical data medium is the target optical data medium, the method

includes modifying read requests to the protected data areas so that either no data is read or the read data is modified to be useless.

Claim 18 (New): An optical data storage medium according to claim 14, wherein when the inserted optical data storage medium is identified as the target optical data medium, the computer modifies read requests to the protected data areas so that either no data is read or the read data is modified to be useless.